

The Times-Dispatch presents this compilation of facts about the educational institutions in Virginia. And it is with no vain boasting that we recognize that throughout the land it is the tendency of parental care to commit the training of the youth to the advantages offered in Virginia. Why should this not be? The healthful climate, the natural beauties, the magnificent equipment of school property, the mental and moral qualifications of the educators, the historic relationships, and the atmosphere of refined instincts handed down from an amiable and chivalric people, all combine to warrant the inculcation of ideas and tendencies of lofty character. There has been no time from colonial days, when Commissary Blair called attention to the necessity of a collegiate institution, which resulted in the founding of William and Mary College in 1693, to the present time at which Virginia could not stand in line with her sisters in the giving of her bounty and that of her people to the nourishment of institutions for broader education. But more than this: she has kept pace in the progress of the nation for the increase of educational facilities, until to-day she offers opportunity for very broad attainment in every field of learning.

In the past she was a pioneer in higher education, the present is pregnant with greater possibilities, and with the brain force and means to-day behind her efforts, there need be no limit for the future.

SWEET BRIAR INSTITUTE.

Persons interested in education will notice particularly the opening in September of a new school for women at Sweet Briar, Amherst county, Virginia. A few years ago the late Mrs. Iniana Fletcher Williams left for the founding of this school her place which she called "Sweet Briar," consisting of several thousand acres of land, and an endowment fund of eight hundred thousand dollars. From that time the authorities of the school have been engaged in planning for the school and in putting up buildings. Located as it is in the beautiful Piedmont section of Virginia, near the Blue Ridge Mountains, with every advantage of climate and country, only a few hours ride from Washington, on the main line of the Southern Railroad, and equipped with artistic buildings, this school possesses unusual material advantages. Directed as it is in accordance with the highest standards of educational work for women, and led by a faculty of persons who have had the best training in their special lines of work afforded by this country and Europe, the school should take its rank with the best colleges for women in the country.

The grounds of the school are all that could be desired. Close to the buildings and reached by an avenue of spreading maples, lies the athletic field, laid out in tennis courts, basket ball grounds and golf links. Forests of oak, chestnut and hickories, extending almost unbroken to the top of Paul's Mountain, two miles away, afford unlimited opportunities for walks and longer excursions. A beautiful lake, a half mile long, and covering ten acres of ground, lies in a hollow of the hills at a convenient distance from the buildings, and affords opportunities for boating, swimming, fishing, skating and all sorts of summer and winter sports. The well-kept farm, of about three thousand acres; the horticultural department, with gardens, vineyards and orchards; a cold storage and ice factory; a creamery and a steam laundry will render the school independent and self-supporting. In connection with the farm there will be a well-appointed livery, with riding and driving horses, and vehicles ready for the service of the students and teachers. For use on extraordinary occasions, there is a handsome old four-horse coach, still strong and serviceable.

The Sweet Briar Mansion has been fitted up as an administration building. For the college buildings proper, an artistic and uniform plan, in early colonial style, designed by a leading firm of Boston architects, has been chosen, and the style has been consistently carried out in all the other buildings on the place. Of the plan, four buildings have been completed, two dormitories, the academic building, and the refectory. The rooms are all attractive and sanitary. In a grove on the slope of the hill below are situated the professors' residences, three in number, and the apartment house for members of the faculty.

The recently elected President of the school is Dr. Mary K. Benedict, a graduate of Vassar and of Yale.

FREDERICKSBURG COLLEGE.

Fredericksburg College was founded in 1893 by the Presbyterian Church; but in 1897 its charter passed into the hands of a Board of Trustees, and it is now conducted independent of church connection.

Fredericksburg is the largest town in northeast Virginia, and the distributing point for a large part of that section of the State. It is at the head of tidewater on the Rappahannock River. This section is increasing in wealth, and in increasing numbers the people are educating their children. It is the aim of Fredericksburg College to give high-grade instruction. As has been the case with many young colleges, it is hampered by lack of endowment. The usual conditions for college entrance are required. There are B. A. and B. L. courses requiring four years of study.

Fredericksburg is easily accessible from Richmond or Washington, or through Orange on the Southern and on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railways, or by a line of steamers on the river. It is a city of good moral tone, with strong religious influence. The expenses at this College are moderate.

Two preparatory schools are conducted, one for girls and one for boys. In each the home life is emphasized. They prepare for college entrance. The Kenmore School is for girls, and the Saunders Memorial School for boys.

Rev. J. W. Rosebro, D. D., assumed the presidency of the College in 1900, and under his management the school has prospered. The number enrolled the past session was 184.

GLOUCESTER ACADEMY.

prepares for universities, colleges and business.

The school was established in 1870 by Mr. John Tabb, the present owner and principal, on his farm, Summerville, soon after his graduating in several school of the University of Virginia, and has been successful from the beginning, having had the continuous support of the ministers of the gospel and other prominent men of this section.

It would be hard to conceive a more healthful life—morally, mentally and physically—than the boys lead here in this neighborhood of kindly and cultured people. As much care is given to the morals and manners of the pupils as to their intellectual development. Backward boys and those (often erroneously) thought to be dull, receive individual instruction and are classified to meet their needs.

Boarders occupy the dwelling with Mr. and Mrs. Tabb and the family, and are most carefully looked after.

DUNSMORE BUSINESS COLLEGE.

The Dunsmore Business College, one of the oldest and best-known business colleges, is advertised in this issue of The Times-Dispatch.

RAWLINGS INSTITUTE.

Rawlings Institute, Charlottesville, Va., whose advertisement appears elsewhere in this issue, is only nine years old under its present name; but it is the same school which had a history of forty-one years under the name of Albemarle Female Institute. Next June the school will celebrate its semi-centennial. The Albemarle Institute graduated some of the leading women of the South and North. All of these the Rawlings Institute claims as her own, for she has simply claimed a woman's privilege to change her name. She has the same life and character. During the past nine years, under the inspiration of the new name and new influence, the Institute has made rapid progress, and many of our brightest and best young ladies have gone forth from her walls to bless the world. One of the most beautiful things about the school is the devotion of the students to their Alma Mater. The management does not crowd the school. When the limit is reached, the enrollment is closed. The aim is for quality of work and of students. To this end only so much work is undertaken as can be done well, and so many students received as can be properly cared for.

VIRGINIA COLLEGE.

Near Roanoke, Va., "the Magic City of the South," is located one of the most famous Southern colleges for young ladies—Virginia College. This institution is situated on a commanding elevation, with mountains towering on every side. Half a mile beyond city limits, remote from the noise and smoke of industrial activity, it enjoys the quiet, seclusion and freedom of country life, and yet its pupils can avail themselves of city advantages when occasion arises. Electric cars run at frequent intervals.

Of the mental training, it should suffice to point out that students from thirty States are to be found here. For thoroughness of teaching, range of studies, equipment, Virginia College ranks very high. The new buildings have every modern improvement—steam heat, electric light, bath and toilet rooms on every floor. A campus of ten acres surrounds the college. Pupils have special conservatory advantages in music, art and elocution. A well equipped library and a reading room are provided.

Discerning parents note these material advantages, but they place a higher valuation yet on that delightful and ennobling social life which influences for good the character of every girl fortunate enough to be brought within its charming circle.

CO-OPERATIVE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

The Co-Operative School for Girls and Young Women will enter its ninth session with increased accommodations for boarding pupils, sixteen rooms having been added to its building.

This school, relying on its merits, and conducted on business principles, without donations either public or private, and without the sheltering wing and influence of any particular religious denomination, has steadily forged to the front.

It furnishes board, books, robes, caps, and laundry at cost, which brings its rates within the reach of many whose pecuniary circumstances will not admit of their attendance on the more expensive schools. Many patrons claim that it costs no more to send their daughters to this school than to support them at their homes.

The Co-operative principle on which the school is run and its success have attracted the attention of educators both State and national. While its rates are low, its standard of instruction is high; its discipline is firm and yet kind, so that its most enthusiastic advocates are found among its pupils, especially those who have patronized other more expensive schools.

Those who have girls to educate will do well to investigate this school before contracting to send them elsewhere.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.

On June 12, 1906, the University of Virginia completed the eighty-seventh continuous year of its life. Founded by Thomas Jefferson, nourished by the Commonwealth of Virginia, enriched and guided by the ability and devotion of a rare group of scholars for three generations, it may be justly said to have achieved and maintained a certain distinct intellectual leadership in higher education.

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